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LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 25 July and 6 October 1996, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 25 July-6 October 1996

1. 25 July 1996

Iranian armed forces established a control point on the road running parallel to the border with Iraq near the Arafat post and the market place in the Badrah district. They stationed a number of soldiers there and erected a wire barrier inside Iraqi territory.

2. 31 July 1996

The United Arab Emirates tug Ocean Express was stopped in the Ziyadiyah area in the Shatt al-Arab by a boat carrying seven men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and wearing civilian clothing. Holding the tug's Filipino crew at gunpoint, the assailants robbed them of $25,000 and various personal possessions. As the crew members were also blindfolded, they were unable to say afterwards which way the attackers' boat had gone.

3. 17 August 1996

At 0300 hours, a hand grenade was thrown at the border post in the Ziyadiyah area, manned by members of I Company, Second Border Guards. The grenade was thrown from the direction of two Iranian boats carrying a number of Iranians. Captain Khidr Salih Abd Allah, Private Haydar Bassio Ali and Private Jifar Jum'ah 'Ad, all serving in the above-mentioned company, were wounded by the grenade and were taken to a military hospital for treatment. The assailants fled towards the Iranian side.

4. 31 August 1996

Iranian forces intercepted the seagoing tug Eagle, whose registered home port is in Belize, while it was transporting construction personnel working for the private sector and the ocean pilot Adil Khalfa Laftah, and held it at Iranian inspection point No. 1 in the Shatt al-Arab, located approximately seven nautical miles south of Faw.

At 0120 hours on 4 September 1996, while the tug was at the above-mentioned location, its crew heard a shot and two masked men were observed, one carrying a rifle and the other a club. The individuals in question fled to the Iranian side after having wounded one of the tug's crewmen. The wounded man was taken away by the personnel of the Iranian control post.

5. 3 September 1996

At 1045 hours, an Iranian aircraft of unknown type violated Iraqi airspace. The aircraft came from the direction of the city of Kifri and overflew successively Hamariyah, Janah, Ba'qubah and Mandali. At 1107 hours, the aircraft returned to Iranian airspace in the direction of the Harran district.

6. 19 September 1996

At 1300 hours, five armed Iranians were observed some 10 kilometres east of Qazaniyah with a number of cattle nearby. The Iranians opened fire; when their fire was returned, they fled to the Iranian side. It subsequently emerged that the cattle belonged to the district of 'Arab Hizam (seven kilometres east of Qazaniyah) and had been missing for two days. They were subsequently returned to their owners.

7. 25 September 1996

At 0600 hours, a number of Iranian fishing launches, estimated at 52 in all, were observed in Iraqi territorial waters near buoy No. 2 at coordinates 760890 on the 1:100,000 Mina al-Bakr chart. They were chased out by two Coast Guard patrol boats.

8. 29 September 1996

At 1830 hours, two Iranian naval vessels, one of them eight metres in length, each of them manned by five civilians, including one wearing military uniform, and each armed with a machine gun and carrying radio equipment, rounded up 11 Iraqi launches while they were fishing in Iraqi territorial waters, between Mina al-Bakr and Mina al-Amiq, and forced them over, with their crews, to the Iranian shore.

9. 1 October 1996

At 2400 hours, nine of the launches referred to above were released, together with the crews of all the launches. The other two, the Khuljan I and the Khuljan II, are still being detained.

10. 6 October 1996

At 1650 hours, an Iranian helicopter was observed flying at low altitude at coordinates 5754 (Majnun al-Shamali), coming from inside Iran and flying northwards.